

Brazil Dismantles Religious Sect Charged with Slavery



Rio de Janeiro, August 18 (EFE-RHC)-- Brazilian police have dismantled a religious sect charged with slavery. At least six people were arrested in an operation aimed at dismantling a criminal organization. The criminals operated in three Brazilian states through a sect known as the Jehovah's Witnesses. Besides arresting suspected leaders of the organization and transporting another suspect to a hospital, the judge who ordered the operation called for the seizure of at least 70 properties. "Upon joining the sect, the faithful were convinced they should donate all their assets," the judge said. According to those directing the investigation, the leaders of the sect forced members to donate their assets. Members of the organization will be accused of the crimes of people trafficking and slavery. The sect's activities were first investigated in 2011, and were targeted in 2012.

At the time, two leaders of the sect were arrested for appropriating the pension. However, in neither case was any proof of slave labor discovered.

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